

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 52

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Bishop Felton M. Smith, Jr., on the occasion of his keynote address at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Month Program at Bethel University.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those venerable individuals who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Felton M. Smith, Jr., is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors, and on February 19, 2011, this stalwart servant of the Lord will be the Keynote Speaker at the 8th Annual Black History Month Program at Bethel University; and

WHEREAS, always an enlightening and groundbreaking occasion, this year's theme will be "Never Forget From Which You Came: Moving Forward in 2011 Holding Up the Banner" and will feature several celebrated choirs and musical groups from around the city; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee First Eastern Jurisdiction's Bishop and beloved Pastor of the New Covenant Fellowship Church of God in Christ, Bishop Smith is teacher, prophet, apostle, and deeply spiritual man who has devoted fifty-six years to spreading the Gospel of Christ and communicating God's love to his congregations and community; and

WHEREAS, a native of Chattanooga, Bishop Smith is the son of Felton Smith, Sr., and Mary H. Smith; and

WHEREAS, his extensive educational background includes an associate's degree in electrical engineering from Monterey Peninsula College, a pastoral studies degree from Tennessee Temple University, a degree in religion and philosophy with a minor emphasis on psychology from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, two undergraduate degrees in

Bible studies from American Bible Institute, a master's degree in orthodoxy in ministry and counseling psychology from Oxford Graduate School, a doctorate of ministry and counseling from International Bible College and Seminary, and a doctorate of philosophy from Oxford Graduate School; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Bishop Smith is fortunate to share both love and companionship with his wife, Lady Connie M. Smith, and he also cherishes his role as a devoted father to their children; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Smith exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career as a religious leader and humble servant of God, Bishop Smith has demonstrated the utmost compassion, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his friends, his family, and the many and diverse members of his congregation at New Covenant Fellowship Church of God in Christ; and

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body are delighted to recognize this committed Christian and dynamic religious leader on this important occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Bishop Felton M. Smith, Jr., on the occasion of his keynote address at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Month Program at Bethel University, salute his impeccable character and his steadfast commitment to living a Christian life with courage and conviction, and wish him every continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.